

hit collectively about .340, but were not high-class fielders.

In the Baseball Magazine, J. C. Koyfed has named five outfielders as the best in the game and he has selected with discrimination. The five as he ranks them were the trios of Baltimore in 1894, of Brooklyn in 1900, of Boston in 1897, of the Red Sox in 1912 and Detroit in 1909.

Just as the Mackian infield has been praised this year, have Speaker, Lewis and Hooper been lauded to the skies, but are they the equal of Keeler, Kelley and Brodie of the Orioles, or Keeler, Fielder Jones and Sheckard of Brooklyn.

Keeler was the cleverest man in baseball. In 1894, with Baltimore, he batted .367 and in 1900 he batted .366 for Brooklyn. This brings the superiority of either of these outfielders down to four men, Brodie and Kelley, Jones and Sheckard, for Keeler was equally good with both teams.

Barring Keeler, Walter Brodie was the most uncanny judge of a fly ball that ever spoiled a base hit. He owned a fine arm and batted .369, compared to Sheckard's .305, but Sheck offset the difference by working pitchers for bases on balls frequently.

Joe Kelley was a terrific hitter, batting close to .400 and often for extra bases. Opposed to him, Fielder Jones was one of the craftiest men in the game and, while nowhere near Kelley's equal as a batter, he narrowed the margin by his cunning. But first place must go to Kelley.

Had Davy Jones been a .300 batter, Detroit's 1909 outfield would have ranked with those of Baltimore and Brooklyn, but, despite the brilliance of Cobb and the slugging of Sam Crawford, Davy's failure as a reliable batter prevented the trio from becoming immortal.

No two men, not if they were both Cobbs, can overcome the weakness of a mediocre player, because the ideal outfield must be a smooth-working machine, with every man capable of doing what the others are

capable of, to maintain the balance.

The Detroit outfield of 1887 was a marvel of batting strength, but not strong otherwise. Sam Thompson, Hardie Richardson and Ned Hanlon could slug—but that let them out. Not until Billy Hamilton, Hugh Duffy and Chic Stahl made Boston memorable in 1897 was the batting of the Detroit three bettered.

Clarke, Beaumont and Sebring of Pittsburgh were a wonderful outfield, hard hitting, fast fielding, although Sebring's inconsistency caused him to fall below the other two.

It was perfect balance that made the Oriole's trio the marvels of the game. They could hit like fiends; each man had a grand throwing arm; they were perfect judges of fly balls, and each one possessed in a remarkable degree that sixth sense, baseball brains. These were the things that made Keeler, Kelley and Brodie the greatest outfield that ever played the game called "baseball."

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AIN'T HE THE CHEERFUL DOC?



Patient—Shall I ever get well again, doctor?

Doctor—Most certainly! I've had a lot of experience of your complaint. Why, I've been treating another patient for it for the last fifteen years!

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No matter how cold that day may be, remember there is a colder place. Verhoyansek, Siberia, the coldest inhabited place in the world, has it 85 degrees below zero in winter.